

The Season of Creation

God of Creation:

We give you thanks for your ancient promise
that while the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night,
will never cease. (*cf Genesis 8.22*)



Almighty God, you have called us to tend and keep
the garden of your creation.

Give us wisdom and reverence for all your plants
and animals who share this planet with us
and whose lives make possible our own. Amen.

Holy Eucharist

Voluntary

Opening Hymn (*Please refer to the insert for hymn #.*)

Welcome to St. Stephen's

Opening Acclamation

Presider: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Collects for Creation

(*Presider may use one of the following, or the collect of the day.*)

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Gracious God, the air sings with songs of glory, water flashes silver with creation, and the forests bloom with leaves for healing nations. May your light and love fill our hearts and souls and minds, that we may share your abundant grace with the world. **Amen**

Please refer to the insert for the following:

The First Lesson

The Psalm

The Second Lesson

The Gospel

The Sermon

An Affirmation of Faith (*Please stand if it is comfortable to do so.*)

Let us say together in faith:

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,

good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal;
you overcome death.
You are our God.
We worship you. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Eternal God:

We thank you for the beauty of the World:
for the teeming life of the seas,
the flight of birds,
and the diversity of animal life.
Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care;
to protect endangered species,
to preserve the variety of habitats,
and to honor the delicate balance of nature.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the wealth
of blessings from land and sea;
for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun.
We pray for the nations of the earth,
give us the will to cherish this planet
and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all.

God of justice:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church,
called to reconcile and heal:
For this parish and Nina our Rector,
for Douglas our Bishop, and Michael our Presiding Bishop.

God of grace:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the human family.
We exult in our diversity and giftedness,
we repent of our sins, divisions and violence.
By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us.
As every human being is known and loved by you,
may we care for one another with love and respect.
We pray for those you have commended to our care:
(Please refer to the insert for those on our prayer list.)
God of compassion:
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died,
whom we entrust to your eternal love;
may we support and comfort those who mourn.
(Please refer to the insert for those who have died.)
God of peace:
hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect: *(Presider may choose one of the following.)*

Presider: O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presider: Creating God, your name is written in every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. Thank you for calling us by name. Thank you for your continued creating power in water, rivers, forests and oceans. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of all creation, that our children may enjoy its abundance, and a long life on your beloved earth. **Amen.**

The Confession

Let us pray for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence is kept.

God of all mercy,
**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

(Announcements will be made at the end of the service)

Eucharistic Prayer for Creation

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the God of all Creation.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you - for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus *(spoken)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The presider continues:

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation:

with you, with one another; with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Fraction, *spoken*

Presider: The Living Bread, given for the life of the world.

***People:* Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

cf John 6:51

The Invitation

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion from God's table. Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the celebrant know.

Post Communion Prayer, Form I

Let us pray:

***All:* Holy One,**

**you feed us with bread from heaven
and the gifts of mother earth.**

**In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace
and you call us to friendship with one another.**

You have given us the gift of reconciliation.

**May we who have tasted that gift from you,
offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another.**

And may you always walk among us as friend.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer, Form II

Let us pray.

***All:* Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.**

**May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.**

**Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing (*Presider may use this or another blessing.*)

Go forth now to care for God's world.
Use resources wisely. Share your knowledge.
Sacrifice where necessary.
Live in harmony with all creation.
Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living
and preach the good news to all.
And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son,
and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you
that you might be a blessing to others
today and always. **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn (*Please refer to the insert for hymn #.*)

Announcements (*listed in full in the insert*)

The Dismissal, Form I

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation;
as you have received freely,
so give freely.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Dismissal, Form II

Let us bless our God and all Creation. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Voluntary (*see insert*)

Resources for Creation Liturgy

Cover

The first prayer was written based upon *Genesis 8:22*.

The second prayer is from the resource packet from the National Council of Churches Earth Day Sunday, 2001.

The Collects for the Season

The first is from A New Zealand Prayer Book (1989), 569.

The second is from Daily Prayers for All Seasons (2014), 130.

Affirmations of Faith

A New Zealand Prayer Book (1989), 481.

The Prayers of the People

Adapted heavily from a form in the Anglican Church of England's *Common Worship; Times and Seasons, now included in: 'Let all things their Creator bless,' Liturgy for use during the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guildford, The Church of England.*

Concluding Collects for the Prayers

The first is from the Order of St. Helena Breviary's version of BCP, Collect for the Stewardship of Creation (BCP 259, OSH 258).

The second is adapted from *Season of Creation Two, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa*, as published online by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network.

Confession, Absolution and Peace

Enriching Our Worship (1997), p. 56.

Eucharistic Prayer

Adapted from *Eucharistic Prayer One, Season of Creation Two, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa*, as published online by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network, and *a Creation specific Eucharistic Prayer, in Eucharistic Prayers*, by Sam Wells and Abigail Kocher, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2016.

Fraction

This was written based upon John 6:51 (NRSV) "*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.*"

Post Communion Prayers

Form I - from Huron LAIC, 2001 (*Lenni Lenape Algonkian Iroquoian Council, Diocese of Huron*) Anglican Church of Canada. "The mission of Huron LAIC is to foster new relationships,

keep the Gospel at the center of the Circle, and support the self-determination of Aboriginal Anglicans."

Form II - Adapted from *Churches together in Britain and Ireland – resources for creation time*, as published online by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network.

The Blessing

Crafted from two sources: the first was a prayer included in the Creation materials published by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network; the second source from *Prayers for the Planet, at a service at Hinde Street Methodist Church, London, before the Climate March, December 2005*.

The Dismissals

Adapted from Anglican Church of England's *Common Worship; Times and Seasons*.

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Our mission is to be the heart and hands of Christ:
Nourishing people, transforming lives.